

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached two (2) sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1-4. These two sheets, which include Figs. 1-4, replace the original two sheets including Figs. 1-4. In Figs. 1 and 3, the sub-component “8” of memory 11 has been labeled, and the two-way communication line of element 6 has been labeled with the legend “to/from sensor or actuator.” In Fig. 2, the connections between each of the boxes of the flowchart have been clarified with directional arrows. In addition, the flowchart of Fig. 2 is fully explained in the Specification, e.g., p. 6, l. 27-36, and p. 7, l. 28-36. In Fig. 4, the connections between each of the boxes of the flowchart have been clarified with amended directional arrows. In addition, the flowchart of Fig. 4 is fully explained in the Specification, e.g., p. 8, l. 17 – p. 9, l. 16.

Attachments: Two (2) replacement sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 5-6 and 10-13 have been amended. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the acknowledgment that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

In response to the Examiner's objection to Figs. 1-4, Applicants are submitting two replacement drawing sheets containing amended Figs. 1-4 which obviate the Examiner's objections. The changes made to Figs. 1-4, as well as supporting Specification disclosure related to Figs. 1-4, are fully explained in the "Amendments to Drawings" section on page 2 of this paper.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the specification, Applicants have amended the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 7, of the Specification.

In response to the Examiner's objection to claim 10, Applicants have amended claim 10 to delete the phrase "determined in b)."

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claims 2 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, claims 2 and 12 have been amended to obviate the indefiniteness issues.

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,329,579 ("Brunson"). It is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-15 are not anticipated by Brunson for at least the following reasons.

To anticipate a claim under § 102(b), a single prior art reference must identically disclose each and every claim element. See Lindeman Maschinenfabrik v. American Hoist and Derrick, 730 F.2d 1452, 1458 (Fed. Cir. 1984). If any claimed element is absent from a prior art reference, it cannot anticipate the claim. See Rowe v. Dror, 112 F.3d 473, 478 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claim invention, arranged exactly as in

the claim. Lindeman, 703 F.2d 1458 (Emphasis added). Additionally, not only must each of the claim limitations be identically disclosed, an anticipatory reference must also enable a person having ordinary skill in the art to practice the claimed invention, namely the inventions of the rejected claims, as discussed above. See Akzo, N.V. v. U.S.I.T.C., 1 U.S.P.Q.2d 1241, 1245 (Fed. Cir. 1986). To the extent that the Examiner may be relying on the doctrine of inherent disclosure for the anticipation rejection, the Examiner must provide a “basis in fact and/or technical reasoning to reasonably support the determination that the allegedly inherent characteristics necessarily flow from the teachings of the applied art.” (See M.P.E.P. § 2112; emphasis in original; see also Ex parte Levy, 17 U.S.P.Q.2d 1461, 1464 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1990)).

Amended claim 1 recites, in relevant parts, a microprocessor system having a microprocessor, at least one storage module and a control module, “the at least one storage module being referred to as an exchange-protected module and storing a serial number for the at least one storage module in a non-changeable manner,” and the control module receives “a data value specified by the serial number and to at least partially block a function of the microprocessor system if the received data value does not match an expected data value encoded in the control module.” Amended claim 10 recites substantially similar features. While the Examiner contends that “abstract and Figures 1-4 and col. 4, lines 28-62” of Brunson teaches the claimed feature of “the at least one storage module being referred to as an exchange-protected module and storing a serial number for the at least one storage module in a non-changeable manner,” nothing in Brunson actually teaches or suggest “storing a serial number for the at least one storage module in a non-changeable manner.” In fact, the sections of Brunson cited by the Examiner have absolutely no relevance to the claimed feature; instead, the cited sections merely deal with a master-slave configuration of a plurality of multi-function boards 100-102, and the only discussion even remotely relating to storage is an “off-line storage 111.” In addition, while the Examiner contends that “abstract and Figure 1 and col. 2, lines 22-50 and col. 5, lines 8-46” of Brunson teaches the claimed feature of “a control module to **receive a data value specified by the serial number** and to at least partially **block a function of the microprocessor system if the received data value does not match an expected data value encoded in the control module**,” nothing in Brunson teaches or suggests this claimed feature. In this regard, the cited sections of Brunson, e.g., col. 2, lines 22-50 and col. 5, lines 8-46, have nothing to do with the claimed features.

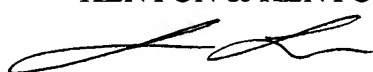
For at least the foregoing reasons, Brunson fails to anticipate amended claims 1 and 10, as well as their dependent claims 2-9 and 11-15.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims 1-15 are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON LLP

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By: SONG LEE for Gerard Messina
Gerard A. Messina
Reg. No. 35,952

One Broadway
New York, NY 10004
(212) 425-7200

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